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Diplomat defects to West

From Our Correspondent
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A Romanian diplomat and cipher expert in Vienna has defected to the West, it has been announced. He took with him more than 100lb of classified documents.

Mr Florian Rotaru, who is 28, had been in Vienna since 1979 but had planned his defection for five years. It was then that he began to collect copies of the classified information he coded and decoded in Bucharest.

On the day of his defection—November 23 last year—he was the only diplomat in the embassy building in the centre

of Vienna. He broke into cupboards, filing cabinets and desks, to fill the post sack with files and dossiers.

After smashing a window at the back of the embassy, he walked across a car park to freedom.

His defection has been kept secret until now because the Western intelligence services were suspicious of the sheer quantity of material he had brought with him.

When they were convinced that his information was genuine, they waited until they could identify many of the East European agents at work in the West from the dossiers.